

went to Ocean Grove, N. J. On her return she was informed by Mrs. Strubey, a colored lady who lives in a small house on the main highway near the entrance of the Lane on which the Russell's reside, that Erling had been looking for her during her absence. Mrs. Strubey was with Mrs. Russell at the time ~~he~~ told her his story, and Mrs. Russell thinks that she probably will remember the occurrence.

Mrs. Russell again saw Erling and he asked if she had told you. She told him that she had not, but would do so and on September 8th, 1924 or about that date, she called at your office and told you.

Mrs. Strubey is not living with her husband at the present time but is working as a domestic for some family in the Highland Park section. I am endeavoring to get a line on where she ^{came} be found.

Mrs. Russell claims that two or three days after the finding of the bodies, she had a conversation with Mrs. Gibson and remarked about the awful murder. Mrs. Gibson's reply was simply " Nobody but the family, Mills says, nobody but the family, as they did not want the money to get out of the family".

She again talked with Mrs. Gibson after the newspapers had mentioned the fact that a reward had been offered and at that time Mrs. Gibson remarked in a sarcastic way about the fact that Mrs. Hall had offered no reward.

Mrs. Gibson did not intimate in any of these conversations that she knew anything as to who had committed the murder.

Mrs. Russell claims that the prosecution is endeavoring to show that she was not at home on the night of the murder and therefore could not have been in conversation with Mrs. Gibson at the time she claims. The witnesses they hope to prove this fact by are Louis Blackwell and Mary Blackwell his wife, who reside across the road from Mrs. ~~Russell~~ Russell and Howard Greenwood and Carrie Greenwood, (possibly Greenwald) who reside in the same neighborhood. All of the parties are colored.

As to Blackwell, the claim is that he was ill at the time and his wife and niece were nursing him and they all know Mrs. Russell was not at home. Mrs. Russell claims that Mrs. Blackwell and her niece were visiting friends in Washington, D. C. at the time of the murder and did not return home until some time after the bodies had been found. Further that for several days prior to the night in question and for several days subsequent thereto, she had not seen Blackwell around his place. That the Blackwell's have been on very intimate terms with Mrs. Gibson since they came to live in the neighborhood and were the first people to criticize Mrs. ~~Russell~~ for contradicting Mrs. Gibson.

Blackwell's correct name is said to be William Blackwood. He originally lived in Washington, D. C. In 1908 he left Washington going to Newark, N. J. where he married a light skinned woman, said to be an Indian. They had one child. Blackwell remained in Newark until the time of his wife's death in 1920, when he returned to Washington. In the same year after his return to Washington, he was convicted in the Municipal Court on a charge of maintaining a disorderly house and sentenced to serve six months.

He came to live at his present address in August, 1922. At that time he was accompanied by the woman who he now claims is his wife. If he is married to her at all the marriage must have taken place within the last two years.

The Russells claim not to know much about the Greenwood